

BCM

A Belgian Japanese- and pop culture Magazine
Nr 31: April - May - June 2017

Interviews

Lunie of Calypso Tattoo

Belladonna's Cupboard

my way my love

PLASTICZOOMS

Ena Fujita

Fashion

& features

Kurashiki and Okayama

convention fashion



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Film is not dead!
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Make-up tutorial: Claire Van Laere (www.instagram.com/clairedanslalune16)

Helcanen in Japan: all photos by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

J-fashion portraits feature:
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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we can and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

Spring is here, and with it (ok slightly later than the start of Spring), we bring you this new edition! As usual, our first issue of the year is a little thinner, because there are fewer events in January and February, but we make up with that by bringing you tons of interviews! We spoke to Lunie, a tattoo artist specialist in kawaii tattoos; Rachel Boese, co-founder of indi cosmetics and SFX brand Belladonna's Cupboard and of course musicians! Yukio Murata of my way my love; the evil idol Ena Fujita, who is not as evil as you'd think at all and of course the band that is currently touring Europe: PLASTICZOOMS!

Aside from that we have another gorgeous two-part Japan travel feature by the talented Helcanen, a super fun beauty tutorial by the equally talented Claire, a cheki give-away you can participate in and tons, tons more.

A huge thank you to all our readers and contributors, BCM could not exist without you!

Enjoy the read (and/or the looking at pictures)!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

Cute, quirky and a little bit gothic
art and jewellery



The art of
YUKARI
www.artofyukari.co.uk
www.etsy.com/shop/ArtofYukari

VISIT NANTES!

We at BCM often receive questions of where in Belgium and Europe is good to visit.

We aren't travel agents, but we can make recommendations!

So in this **Visit!** feature we will focus on a European city, per edition.

This time: **Nantes**, in Brittany, France - www.nantes-tourisme.com/en

Other reasons to visit Nantes: Les Machines de l'île, more museums than you can shake a stick at, it's own Japanese garden, art all around town, friendly people, beautiful architecture, a cool castle and tons of fun things to see and do in general.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.

Inside the Natural History Museum. Which is but one of the many museums in Nantes.



The Passage Pommeraye combines history with food and shopping. It's beautiful on it's own, even if you are just walking through it.



The Isle of Nantes is home to the famous Les Machines de l'île where the Great Elephant and other mechanical creatures reign supreme.



Like every city, Nantes has it's own particular treats. As biscuits LU is from Nantes, a lot of these are cookies.



Place Royale



Art: you can find sculptures and street art all over Nantes, completely at random. It's awesome!



Art by Mako Moriyasu of color-code ©
Find her on Twitter: twitter.com/clc_mako and instagram @clc_mako
<http://color-code.jp>



**CONVENTION
FASHION**









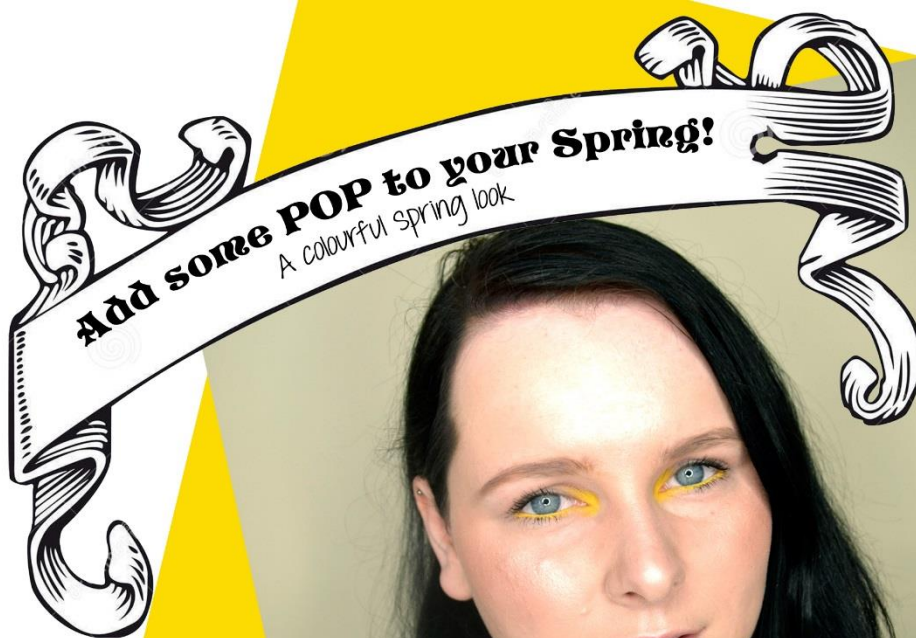












Hello everyone!
 Even though I consider myself a winter, my favourite season is spring!
 After this dreary winter season, I long for some cheerful colours, so here is one of my favourite tricks to add bright colours into my everyday makeup.
 I'm going to use a dewy foundation to keep the look light and fresh paired with a bright eye look that will draw attention. This will be a step by step tutorial, but I encourage you to experiment. Use whatever colours you feel comfortable with, add a bright lipstick or glam it up with some false lashes.



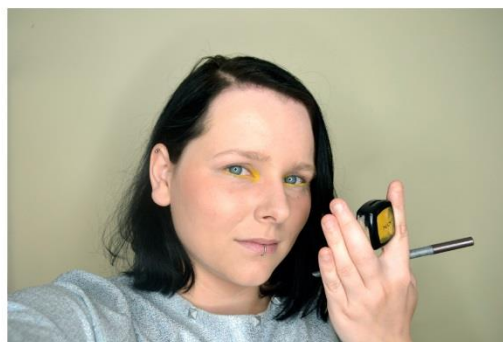
Step 1: primer and foundation

I chose a foundation with a dewy finish and mixed in some green primer to conceal the redness in my face. For dull skin, try a lilac or a pink concealer. I recently started mixing my primer into my foundation and it's a great trick for making your make-up last longer.



Step 2: making me blush

After I apply some highlighting under eye concealer I'm applying a peach toned blush. Ofcourse you can use any blush you like. At this point I'm also applying some brow gel, but that's completely optional.



Step 3: the eyes have it

It's time to start our eye look! First I primed my eyelids and I applied a light pink eyeshadow and a tan eye shadow in the crease. Don't use too much and blend out well, at this point we're just trying to even out our natural skin tone. I apply just a thin line of brown pencil liner and use a small brush to smoke it out.

Step 4: colour explosion!

It's time to start playing with some bright colours. I'm using a yellow eye pencil on my waterline and apply just a small dot of yellow eyeshadow in my inner corners. I finish the look off with a volumizing mascara and some lip balm.

Products used for this look:

Benefit Cosmetics, Sugarbomb blush - **Kiko Cosmetics**, lasting precision automatic eyeliner and kohl nr. 14 - **Makeup Academy**, undress your skin shimmer highlighter - **Maybelline**, The colossal Go extreme! Volume mascara - **NYX**, HD High definition eye shadow base - **NYX**, hot singles pro eye shadow in Gumdrop - **NYX**, hot singles pro eyeshadow in STFU - **Rimmel**, Fresher skin foundation - **Yves Rocher**, Crayon botanical colour eye pencil in yellow - **Wycon Cosmetics**, corrective primer - **Wycon Cosmetics**, radiant touch longwear concealer

FEATURED MAKE-UP PRODUCT: Belladonna's Cupboard - Moon Magick highlighter palette

This is a new feature, where we take one product used in our beauty tutorial (due to customs glitches this is a preview of a product used in the beauty tutorial of NEXT edition, so there you go).

In the spirit of full disclosure, we of BCM were given their Moon Magick palette. Rest assured though, our opinion is our own, and we'll be completely and brutally honest in our review.

Belladonna's Cupboard is a US based indie cosmetics and SFX brand, that is quickly making a name for themselves with their **cruelty free, paraben free, gluten free and vegan products**.



First of all, the specs.

It's cardboard packaging. The top has moon phases printed with silver glitter detail, which is frankly gorgeous. The back as a sticker listing the ingredients and inside the lid does not contain a mirror, but instead another sticker listing ingredient names and a moon photo. All very basic, but the design is still very pretty. Bare in mind that this is an indie brand, so they don't have the numbers of staff or the budget of bigger companies, and yet they do a stand up job providing nice packaging to accompany their products, even though it is still a little basic at times, it works and that's what matters. Even though the packaging is cardboard, it is still pretty sturdy. But as these are highlighter shades and thus more powdery, I would recommend you handle it with care. Don't drop it, and don't travel with it unless you can package it really well. Better be safe than sorry.

This palette **retails** on the Belladonna's Cupboard website for **\$50**.

It is limited edition and for that money you get 12 highly pigmented highlighter shades.

And wait for it: they are multifunctional.

Each palette also comes with a lip gloss that transforms your lipstick into a beautiful translucent shade. We didn't get the gloss with our palette, but know that if you buy one, you will be getting the gloss on top of 12 highlighter colours.



As just mentioned, these colours are **multifunctional**.

Use a primer though (but you should do that anyway, so that is not specified to this brand or product). You can use them on their own, as they are, as you would use any other highlighter, and you will have long lasting (literally all day) **glow-to-the-gods** kind of highlight shades that are different than your run of the mill highlighters. Some colours may seem very similar, but there are subtle differences.

Even then, see it this way: that means there's just more of those beautiful shades. Some are very stand out, obviously different from the others. But all are long lasting and work pretty well with a wide variety of skin tones.

And the ones that don't match you as a highlighter, well...

...you can use those as beautifully foiled shimmery eye shadows instead. Use a black base and you'll be surprised at how much these really POP and become the most amazing shimmery colours.



What I love about these the most, aside from the staying power, is the total lack of fall out. Of course, you have to be careful when swirling a brush in the pans, because they are regular eye shadow sized and not traditional big pans of highlighter.

And they do not emphasise texture, at all. And I have a LOT of texture going on. So it's great to finally have 12 highlighters that don't emphasise on it!

Some of these are also colours that definitely work for day to day life, such as pinks, silvers and golds, which adds to the versatility. The only downside I can see is that the packaging is probably not the very sturdiest, making it a little fragile, so use with care. But if you are careful, that's not really an issue. After all, mine was shipped from the US to Belgium and it's still going strong, 'nuff said really.

For those worried about these things, there is no funny scent to either the palette itself or the product. Actually it has no scent at all. Neither does the packaging.

All in all, **this is a fantastic product**.

You get a lot of value for the price seeing you get 12 shades and a lip gloss. The quality is on point, and let's be realistic, where else will you get 12 mermaid/unicorn shade highlighters for \$50 (not even from drug-store brands like Wet'n'Wild)?

I for one can't wait to see what our beauty editor *Claire* will come up with using this palette in the next edition. It's going to be a tutorial as awesome as this palette, that's for sure!



The Moon Magick palette is sold via Belladonna's Cupboard website: www.belladonnascupboard.com

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

ALCHEMICAL COSMETIC
CREATIONS WITH
VERSATILE
APPLICATIONS

*-makeout proof
liquid lipsticks*

*-water activated
pressed pigments*

*(use wet like bodypaint,
or dry like eye shadow)*

OCCULTISM PALETTE

Belladonna's Cupboard MAKEUP FOR CRAZY BITCHES

WWW.BELLADONNASCUPBOARD.COM



Our makeup line is 100% Cruelty Free, Gluten Free, and Vegan. Designed for special effects makeup artists and performers to be long wearing for stage and film use but gentle and easy to wash off.



We've spent years working in haunted houses, horror films and alongside musicians and burlesque performers to develop and improve our products. Our makeup is worn by performers all over the world, some examples include Dan Sperry Anti-Conjuror, Shelly d'Inferno & Kimberly Freeman of One-Eyed Doll.



W I T C H I N G H O O R

L I Q U I D L I P S T I C K S

Belladonna's Cupboard is a US based indi brand producing both amazing cosmetics and SFX products.

Aside from that they are vegan, cruelty free, gluten free and paraben free. Sounds good right?

What's even better is that they actively support artists, animal causes and fight against the reigning beauty standard because well, everyone is beautiful in their own right.

Cliché as that may sound, this is the brand that is fighting to change the industry, step by step. So we are thrilled to be able to collaborate with them in this edition and the next!

For those that don't know **Belladonna's Cupboard** yet, how would you describe the brand in just 5 words?

Rachel Boese (co-owner): Punk-rock Make-up For Crazy Bitches!

The amount of thought put into your products is astounding. Can you describe just how the creation of a new product happens?

It's honestly kind of random, even though randomness only exists in theory, it comes to us in different ways. *Beth* (Amphetamine, co-owner) names things after songs she's listening to normally and we get inspiration and ideas from all over the place. It's usually literally a moment of "Hey, I saw this and it gave me an idea for this color or palette." and then we do it. We are starting to plan out releases months or years in advance, but that's just because we have too many ideas to release them all at once. Since we are making everything ourselves, it's really easy to just go "hey, let's make this", and then do it rather than the months long approval and review process we would have to go through with a lab if we were outsourcing it.

Can you describe the most amazing look you've seen created with your make-up?

I've seen many amazing looks and I love seeing all kinds of make-up. I can get sucked into Pinterest and Instagram for hours just staring at all the pretty, it's really inspiring. I've attached some pictures of *BirdBrainFX*, because she does a TON OF MAKE-UP LOOKS, often with our make-up, and they are always super original and she doesn't have nearly enough followers or subscribers. She actually bought our first round of palettes and loved them so much and did so many looks with them that we offered to sponsor her. We always love seeing what she comes up with! Seriously! She needs to get YouTube famous fast! She deserves it!



It's awesome that your brand is so ethical, but what drove you to choose this approach to cosmetics?

We've never really considered it optional. I don't understand what can drive a company to not make that choice. If you're making money off of exploitation, that's wrong, period.



You do absolutely stunning work, such as the support of retired circus animals with half of the proceeds of your *Circus palette*. Which causes would you like to make our readers aware of?

Thank you! More than anything, we hope that people take a closer look at so called animal welfare organizations like PETA and see that circuses and zoos, not all of them, can be and often are reputable organizations that do more good for animals than harm by far. Sometimes way more than so called animal welfare organizations. Overpopulation of domestic animals and conservation issues are complicated and there are no simple approaches. Animals should be treated well and respected and given the best shot at life, just like people, we are animals too. Who've worked for circuses over the years including *Ringling Brothers*. There's organisations and unemployment for the employees, but anywhere the animals end up will likely rely on donations and with the circus no longer in operation, they likely won't be making the money necessary to provide the necessary monetary support. We have friends that work for Ringling Brothers. Despite unfounded attacks from PETA, Ringling Bros. has never been found in violation of the *federal Animal Welfare Act*. They have been routinely inspected by federal, state and local animal welfare officials, and have met or exceeded every regulation for animal care. Several of the trainers and other Ringling Bros. employees have spoken out against these attacks and PETA and other animal rights organizations were even ordered to pay restitution in court for false claims, but they have not, as yet, paid. According to PETA's own records, PETA kills almost 90% of the dogs and cats taken into their "shelter". Most recently they have been accused of stealing and euthanising a family's pet dog. This, from an organisation that has publicly claimed it would be opposed to a cure for AIDS if it resulted from animal testing. PETA founder *Ingrid Newkirk* also once stated that pet ownership is akin to animal abuse. Yet, this historic show was abused more by these false allegations than any of the animals in their care ever were and, unlike the claims, that's been proven. Quite the opposite, a portion of every ticket sold to a Ringling Bros. performance has gone to conservation and research programs to save the endangered Asian elephant and numerous endangered species of tigers.



It's obvious that you love animals. If you were to do a palette inspired by the animal kingdom, what would it look like?

I've never thought about this but if we do something along those lines, I'll give you credit. Maybe something to do with Zodiac or Native American culture and mythology since both of us are Native. That's actually a really good idea.

Belladonna's Cupboard is not just a beauty brand, it's also an SFX brand, do you feel that programs like Face Off are increasing the popularity of SFX products?

I do think that Face Off has brought FX make-up more to the forefront of people's minds, which is great. We have a friend that was on season 7. That's one reason we offer the free online FX lessons along with our products, we hope to get more people into it than before. To show them you really can get started learning with any budget.

How do you hope your free classes will change the face of the beauty industry, so to speak?

There's enough information on the internet that you can learn almost anything you set out to with enough time and effort. It's really an equalizer, but I know personally, when I've set out to research and begin learning something on my own, sometimes I don't know where to begin. That's why the online lesson format is helpful. Our online classes have a ton of information, they're structured in a way that you can go through them at your own pace and separated enough that you don't get overwhelmed. We also give a ton of resources that help people find more things to learn or get enrolled in an in-person make-up school somewhere.

How do you hope and feel Belladonna's Cupboard can make a difference in the contemporary global political and social climate?

We are all about #selfexpressionrevolution: the ability to express yourself freely with your physical appearance and without fear of discrimination is the hallmark of a free society. A lot of make-up brands are now moving in this direction.

Where do you hope to be with Belladonna's Cupboard in 5 years' time?

I hope to be rich and famous. Just kidding? I mean, who doesn't? I want this journey to take me to a place where we can support ourselves and help other make-up lines and entrepreneurs grow. I'm all about trying to help people realise their potential, encourage them to express themselves and go after the life they want. That's probably my true calling, it's in everything I ever do. The make-up line is just another vehicle for that goal.

Can you tell us a little bit about your upcoming releases for 2017?

We have new highlighters releasing this Spring, we are going to start selling individual pressed colors. Three more palettes this year at least and a new line of water activated paints closer to Halloween.

You love the swamp. How does that love sneak into the collections you design?

I love the swamp because I love *New Orleans*. When I close my eyes a lot of times and think about when I was younger, I remember being so short in the car but I could see the mossy swamp trees out of the car windows so often. New Orleans is my hometown, it's in my soul. The flavor and depth of the city is in everything I do. If you haven't been there, it's impossible to describe, but if you have, you probably already know what I'm talking about.

Your bio on the website mentions you love H.P Lovecraft. If you were to give Cthulhu himself a make-over, how would he end up looking?

Glitter! Definitely glitter. I mean, I don't think I would get very far considering that whole falling into madness at the realization that even a lesser old one like Cthulhu exists in the first place, but this ties in nicely with the last question because the *Cult of Cthulhu*, or one of its sects, was actually down in the *Louisiana Bayou*.

Find Belladonna's Cupboard online online:

Official website: www.belladonnascupboard.com

Official twitter: twitter.com/BellaDCupboard

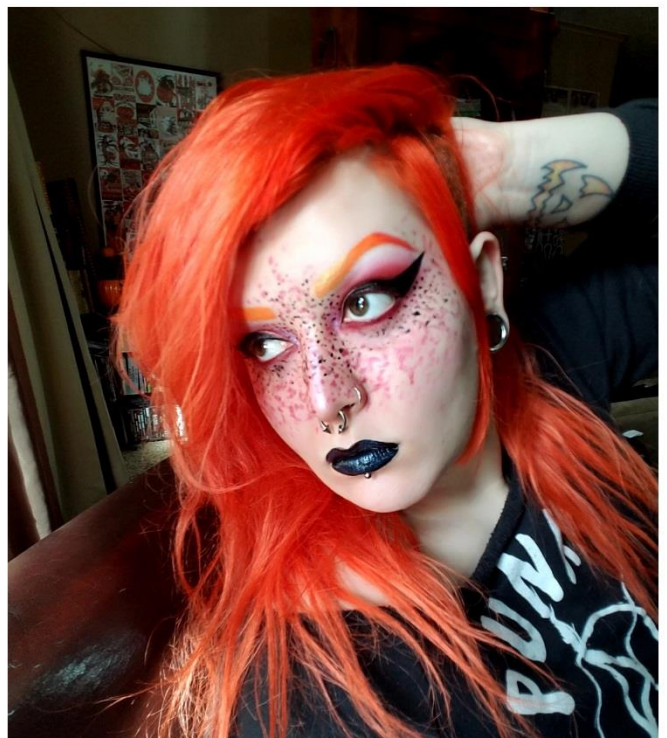
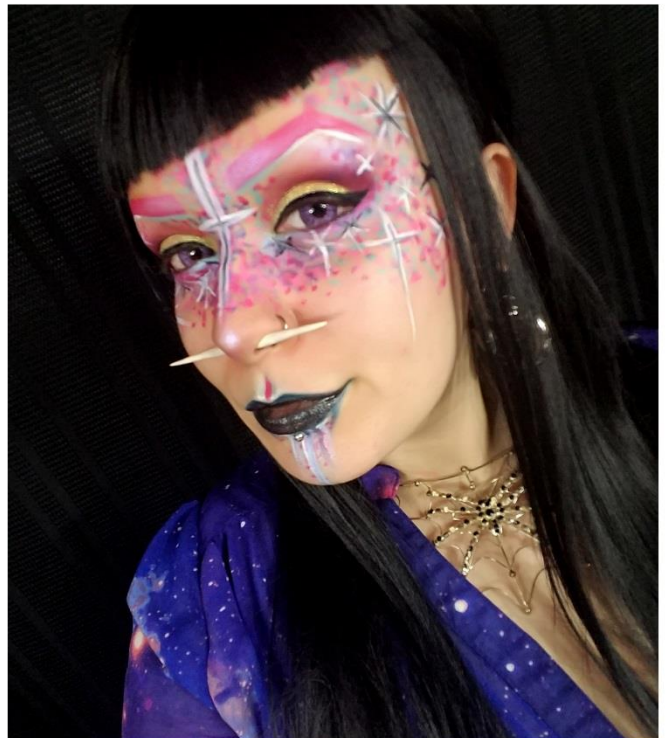
Official facebook: www.facebook.com/BelladonnasCupboard

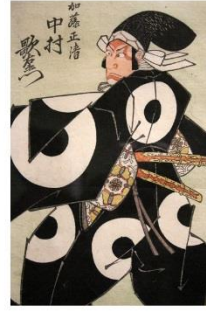
Official instagram: www.instagram.com/belladonnascupboard

BirdBrainFX instagram: www.instagram.com/birdbrainfx

BirdBrainFX youtube: [YouTube.com/user/BirdBrainFX](https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdBrainFX)

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Charlotte Ruddick. Photography by BirdBrainFX.





Event: Ukiyo-e

What: exhibit about Japanese printing techniques in art

When: October 21 2016 - February 12 2017

with the addition of following 3 weekends

Where: Cinquantenaire museum, Etterbeek, Belgium

Ticket price: depending on the formula.

Website: www.kmkg-mrah.be

Ukiyo-e, Japanese for "image of the fleeting world" features a collection of 416 masterpieces from the Japanese wood printing history. The earliest pieces ranging from around 1720 to contemporary artists using traditional methods to create this particular style of Japanese art.

This exhibition actually comprised of two selections. The first one ran from October 21 to December 19 2016 and was then replaced by the second one. Not just because there are so many beautiful images the museum wanted to show to the public, and not just because it's a clever marketing stunt to get people to come back for a second visit (which was discounted), but because of the light sensitivity of the art on display. So it's hard to gripe about it, my sole regret is that I was unable to see the first selection, and I've only seen the second one.

It makes me wonder about the first one, because this one was amazing as it is.

The *Cinquantenaire Museum* once again did a masterful job with set-up, starting from the earliest works, with a comprehensive introduction to each artist and works in Dutch, French and English, taking visitors on a well-laid out and serenely displayed selection of hundreds of prints from bygone eras, in which you can really see the evolution of printing as well as Japanese traditional art itself. If you are not a fan, you will probably be bored to death by what seems an endless repetition of very similar images, but if this is the kind of art you love, you would have loved this expo.

The museum really did an effort of covering all aspects, not just the historical evolution and best known masters, but even including a section of famous Japanese historical erotic art, with a sign outside warning the parents (although I'm pretty sure most children would just find the depictions hilarious, rather than shocking).

Of course, big public attractions were works of both *Hokusai*, including his famous blue wave and red mount fuji prints, and *Hiroshige*, but the other artists really didn't have to give way for the work of these two masters and several works on display can easily compete with them in terms of artistry.

An additional nice touch was the display of historical everyday items, such as a travelers smoking boxing, samurai armour and women's hair accessories, to name but a few. These were all items present in some of the works displayed, and it's nice to be able to see them in real life, aside of the art the inspired or were part of.

It is really no surprise that *Ukiyo-e* ended up being extended for three extra weekends, and it was really no surprise that even nearing the end of January when we visited, there was still quite the crowd, several people clearly repeat visitors, gathered to admire the many beautiful pieces on display.

If you love traditional Japanese art, I hope you were able to catch *Ukiyo-e* before it closed it's doors. Last time we saw an exhibit of traditional Japanese art of this magnitude was in 1989, and this one was organised in the context of the celebration of *Europalia Japan* for the 150 years of diplomacy between Japan and Belgium, so who knows when something like this will be brought back, we may have to wait nearly another 20 years. Hopefully not though, because the success of this exhibition has clearly proven that there is a lot of interest in (traditional) Japanese art.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Photographic impressions of **ANNA AND ELSA'S FROZEN FANTASY**

January 13 - March 17 2017, Tokyo Disneyland,
Tokyo Disney, Chiba, Japan.

Photography by Marie Huberty (www.instagram.com/disneybou).





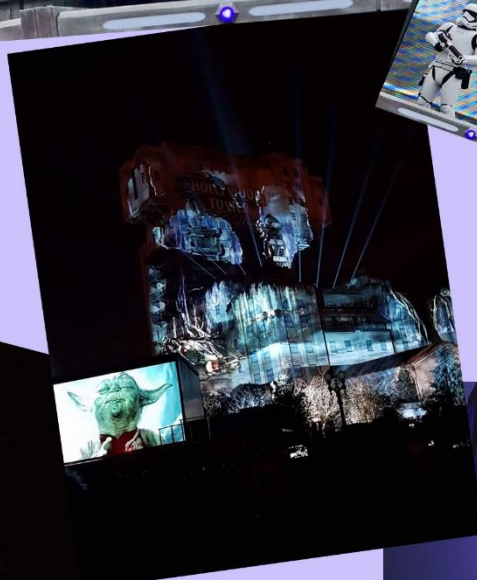
Photographic impressions of Disneyland Paris'

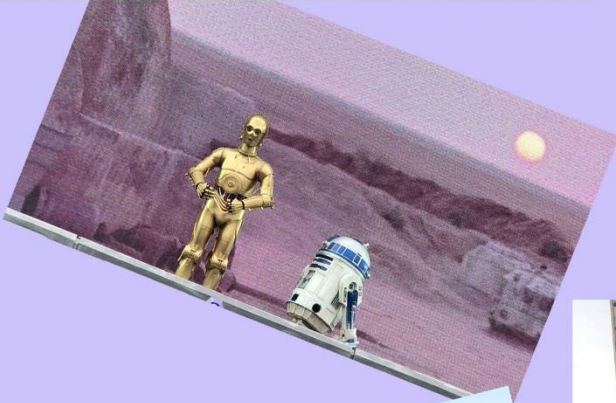
STAR WARS:

SEASON OF THE FORCE

January 14 - March 26 2017, Walt Disney Studios Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by ED92 (ED92.org) and Disneyland Paris





EVENT REVIEW: The Art of Banksy



Event: The Art of Banksy
What: art exhibit
When: January 14 - May 7 2017
Where: Stadsfeestzaal, Antwerp Belgium
Ticket price: massively overpriced.
Website: <http://theartofbanksy.be>

In a long line of cities, Antwerp is now the latest to welcome *The Art of Banksy*.

We were there on opening day to have a look at this brand new exposition of the person that is probably the world's best known street art guru.

The Banksy exhibit in Antwerp, on the top floor of the somewhat prestigious *Stadsfeestzaal* building, really does look like it's being organised in a half finished warehouse rather than the top floor of the inner city's premiere little mall.

Which is undoubtedly the intention, but in my opinion, it's not particularly contributing to the street art feel of the works. Whilst many of the works are still relevant today, when it comes to the many issues western society suffers from, these are mostly works from the *Exit Through the Giftshop* era. The documentary is shown on a rather bad quality screen at the expo, but if people haven't seen it yet, I would really advise seeing it before you visit as it will give you the kind of back story to Banksy and the commercialism of street art I feel is relevant to this expo.

Now the expo itself, everything is set up in low lighting rooms, the background decorations have been purposely artfully designed to give a nitty gritty feel, but frankly, in my opinion it all serves to be as vapid hipster as humanly possible. (And by that I mean the general feel of it, I am in no way saying hipsters are vapid).

It feels like it's set up with the "it's Banksy, so people will come and see it anyway" kind of idea in mind. And for a large part that is true, but I feel that most visitors, bar the most hardcore Banksy and street art fans, will leave feeling they have been grossly overcharged. And then I feel like even they might have been somewhat disappointed, because unlike every other art exhibition of this caliber, there is no gift shop, so people that wanted to buy a souvenir can't even do that. They literally have to make do with the flyer and their ticket. I'm all for well thought out consumerism, and I'll be the first to say impulse buying is bad, but really, most people that like an expo also like to buy the expo guide or a postcard print or something small like that. Whether this is merely an oversight that shouldn't have happened, or intentionally done to keep Banksy's art as "exclusive" as possible, I don't know, but I feel it's a bit of an expo faux pas, generally speaking.

This exhibit really would have benefitted from a better atmosphere, a better general attitude (of the expo, not of the staff, the staff were all very friendly) and feel and just, by giving people more for their money. Because the tickets really are not cheap at all (€ 19,50 if you buy at the door for a regular adult ticket!). The overall feeling I got was they tried just way too hard to maintain the mysticism around the forever unknown Banksy, and didn't put nearly as much focus on the overall set-up. It's not like it was badly done, it wasn't, it's just like it could have been done better. Much better.

I was quite disappointed that it focused on his work from the past and didn't include some of his newer work. Even a *Dismaland* photo series would have been amazing, but no, instead it focused largely on works that everyone even remotely interested in Banksy has seen so many times before. It's not that it's not cool to see these works in real life, it's just that once again, I expected more.

And that is the red thread of this entire expo, it's a fun and interesting enough exhibition, it's just that it could have been, and for that price, should have been, more. Unless you are mad about street art and Banksy, and you honestly don't mind that there are mostly very well-known works on display, I would give this one a miss. And I certainly wouldn't travel from abroad for it.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Event: Made in Asia, 9th edition + YouPlay!, 2nd edition
 What: Asiamania + gaming convention
 When: March 3-5 2017
 Where: Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium
 Ticket price: depending on the formula.
 Website: www.madeinasia.be
www.you-play.be

Made in Asia has, over the years, undoubtedly become the biggest and most popular Asiamania convention of Belgium. Because this year, *Made in Asia* was programmed on the last weekend of the February school holiday week, it was 3 full days, giving people ample opportunity to visit the event. We visited on Friday and Saturday but another member of the BCM crew was there on Sunday, so you'll be able to read a comprehensive 2-part review covering all three days in this edition.

Program wise, *Made in Asia* actually did a really good job. They really did their best to spread out popular acts, and even planning the more popular bands such as *PLASTICZOOMS*, *BRIDEAR* and *Neko Light Orchestra* on several days, so the majority of people had a fair chance to see them live at least once without having to take time off. This was definitely an example of clever scheduling. Aside from this, the program was very extensive, with game demos, all kinds of activities and workshops, concerts, cosplay, a *Dragon Ball Z* photo booth (which was free), you name it. Even if you didn't go to just hang out and look around with your friends, you could still spend an eventful afternoon without spending a dime by participating in the many things that were going on.

Another strong suit of *Made in Asia* is that it's not just an Asiamania event. Sure, Asia is the main focus of the convention, but they team up with the much smaller *YouPlay!* to provide a hall with nothing but games. This attracts a wider audience, and it diversifies the program further. Furthermore, even though it is an Asiamania event, it has a lot of room for subcultural things such as steampunk and LARP. Speaking of the shops, they range from fashion, home décor, young designers, fandom, gadgets, food, candy, beauty and more. So if you do go to shop, chances are you'll find at least something you like. Whether it'll be affordable, that's another matter entirely of course.

Friday was, understandably, the most quiet out of all three days. Most people had to work, university and some other higher education students did not have the benefit of it being a school holiday, so quite a few people were unable to attend that day. This makes Friday the ideal day if you don't like crowds. There were still quite a few people around, but it wasn't exactly crowded. It was easy enough to get around and queues were short and manageable. By no means was it a slow day, due to aforementioned programming. Even though there was less to do than the other two days, there still was plenty going on, making it worth the while of Friday visitors.

Saturday was another matter entirely, and whilst the infamous Crowd with capital C might not have been happening, the convention was definitely still over crowded. That said, if anything had happened at *Made in Asia* this year, I fear that first aid would have had a hell of a job actually getting to the area to give medical assistance. I understand that an event wants to sell as many tickets as possible, but it shouldn't go at cost of visitor safety, a lesson I fear *Made in Asia* won't learn 'till something does go wrong, and that's only a matter of time at this rate.

Over the years, *Made in Asia* has gotten a lot better at providing food on site. Whilst a few years back the offer was limited and grossly overpriced, the offer now is much more varied, but not necessarily better priced (€ 5 for a simple hot dog is overpriced, Würst or no. Same goes for €10 for a basic burger and some fries, gourmet up or down). Snacks and drinks sold at stalls were also very highly priced, this year seemingly even more so than other years from many sellers. What was great, I will say, is the fact that they had devoted an entire hall to food stands, providing a lot of tables for people to sit at. Combined with the permanent little restaurants in the halls themselves, who also have seating facilities, and vendors selling candy, snacks and drinks, this meant that there was quite a lot of variation in food. Not particularly a variation in healthy food, but at least there were more options than there used to be. Some even vegetarian. Aside from that, it was easy enough to bring home-made meals and drinks, so if you didn't want to spend money on the highly priced convention food and drinks, you at least had that option. Whilst there are still some areas *Made in Asia* needs to work on, it is clear that the convention is really trying to get back in shape. And you can see it a little more each year (a lot of things have vastly improved since last year, which was a definite huge improvement on the disastrous 2014 and 2015 editions), so we're curious to see where this ends up going.

All in all, even with the very obvious downsides, *Made in Asia* 2017 was a fun edition, and if they keep it up, they'll remain the biggest Asiamania con Belgium has for a long time coming.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



Photographic impressions of
MADE IN ASIA
March 3-5 2017, Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Event: Made in Asia, 9th edition + YouPlay!, 2nd edition
What: Asiamania + gaming convention
When: March 3-5 2017
Where: Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: www.madeinasia.be
www.you-play.be

Made in Asia is a longstanding Asiamania convention in Laeken (just outside Brussels) that has been growing steadily for the past nine years. This year, they've once again joined up with the younger gaming convention YouPlay! for the second year in a row. As both events blended together perfectly and shared a common income ticket, I will discuss both during this review. Note that I visited these events on Sunday.

Made in Asia has had mixed reviews in the past, mainly due to complaints about overcrowding, safety problems, language barriers, and other practical concerns. However, the organisation really stepped up their game during the previous edition and made many improvements to this event. I'm glad to see these changes return at the 9th version of Belgium's biggest Asiamania convention!

Getting around the convention floor and figuring out what activities to pursue was made easy thanks to the convenient floor plan one could get at the entrance. While I cannot judge Saturday's situation, Sunday was pleasantly calm, especially when compared to the general shoving and poking the earlier editions had always entailed due to the overcrowding issues. Everything was spread out nicely into orderly walkways, and the use of space was well-thought out, as the *Palais* halls organised similar activities and themes together in a fairly logical manner. Finding oneself among the crowd did not feel like being part of the contents of a glorified sardine can anymore, which is a major positive development.

Another big improvement Made in Asia has made is one regarding the available food on the convention floor. They had dedicated a hall solely to food stands and seating spaces, two things that a lot of conventions (among which Made in Asia themselves until re-

cently) lack. It was a relief to have a little oasis of open space and chairs among the convention ruckus, and to be able to sample a variety of food at fairly decent prices.

While Made in Asia has always tried to offer both a diverse marketplace AND a plethora of activities to their guests, the balance wasn't always perfect during past editions, with an often slightly bigger focus being given to shopping. However, these two elements seemed to be perfectly in harmony this time. The central vendor hall had a hefty variety of merchandise, ranging from manga and anime to fashion, gaming, general Asian culture, food, collectables, and so on. Both the casual fans and the hard-core collectors could find what their hearts desired while perusing these little shops. As usual, visitors could also meet their favourite local artists and support their work at the artisan booths.

If shopping wasn't your thing or if your budget was spent, you could easily move on to the other halls (this time without getting stuck in a human traffic congestion!), which focused on activities rather than merchandise. There was an absolutely huge variety of fun to be had, ranging from concerts (performed by *BRIDEAR* and *Neko Light Orchestra*) and meeting guests (such as animation veteran *Chikashi Kubota* and mangaka *Takashi Oba*) to cosplay workshops (ranging from sewing initiations to working with thermoplastics), karaoke, sports initiations, contests, games, quizzes, and even two exposition areas which showcased anime miniatures and *One Piece* models.

Once you got bored of those, you could skip to the next hall to enjoy everything YouPlay! had to offer.

As opposed to Made in Asia, this young member of our Belgian convention family focuses more on gaming and YouTube stars rather than Asian pop culture. YouPlay! hosted an impressive list of (mainly Walloon) Belgian and French YouTube stars who were happy to meet their fans, and gave gamers plenty of opportunities to trade *Pokémon*, compete in games such as *Hearthstone* and *Overwatch*, try out the newest VR developments, collect Nintendo goodies, play board games, and even join (French-language) *D&D* (*Dungeons and Dragons*) sessions. With both of these events combined, there was a little something for everyone to have fun with, regardless of age and interests.

I'm incredibly happy to not only see such a big convention take its problems in its stride and act appropriately, but to also see them keep this up throughout different editions. I'll be looking forward to their 10th anniversary next year, and I hope they'll keep up the link with YouPlay!

Review by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



analog photos of PLASTICZOOMS

PLASTICZOOMS, photographed around the Atomium, Laeken, Belgium with an analog camera.
Samsung Slim Zoom 115A Panorama (a camera from the late 1990s) with JCH Street Pan film.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert. #filmisnotdead



A lot of people in Belgium and Europe know Lunie from the J-fashion community, but what is a little less known is that she is also a very talented tattoo artist, specialised in kawaii tattoo designs.

We sat down with her to talk about her work as an apprentice tattoo artist in one of the most reknown shops of Wallonia (the French speaking part of Belgium), **Calypso Tattoo**.



How exactly did you decide to become a tattoo artist? And how did you go about becoming one?

It's a profession that has fascinated me for years. But it always seemed to me that the scene was very closed to outsiders. Even more if you didn't come from an artist family. My family was even rather anti-tattoo so that didn't help *laughs*. But, I decided to just take my chances in the summer of 2015 and went on the search for someone that would take me on as an apprentice and teach me the ropes. I was enormously lucky that *Daniel Dimattia* of *Calypso Tattoo* gave me a chance starting April last year!

What does the day of an apprentice tattoo artist look like?

I arrive in the shop around 9.30 - 10am and start with some cleaning and dusting of the shop, and make sure everything is 100% sterile before we open up at 10.30am. After that I take care of the reception of people coming in to get tattooed by me. But I also take care of the reception of the people that come in for the other two tattoo artists, as we work there with three artists in total. When I don't have a client, I either design or assist my boss. In the evening, I once again clean up my workspace and close shop. That's usually between 6 and 8pm. The work never ends there *laughs* because when I come home I often still have to work on designs for upcoming tattoo sessions. A day in the life of a tattoo artist must be the same, but with a little less cleaning *laughs*.

Are there any legendary tattoo artists you would love to work with one day?

No, not really ... I don't really see myself and someone else work on the same project together *smiles*. I would, however, love to observe others at work. Especially artists who work with colour in their tattoos!.

If you could tattoo no matter who, of no matter which era, (past and present). Who would it be?

There are so many I would love to tattoo one day *laughs*. But at this very moment, I would say *Mélanie Martinez*.

What would be your dream tattoo to do?

A single great project covering an entire arm or leg! But I don't feel quite ready yet to take on that level as the realisation of a project like that is also complex in design.

You're best known for your kawaii tattoos, but you also do other styles. What made you decide to specialise in these specific ones?

As far as the kawaii goes, that is entirely my own tastes. But that said there are few tattoo artists in Belgium that do the style of cute tattoos that I love doing *smiles*. I love doing neo traditional, because it's my preferred style. Other, more graphic things, I do thanks to the requests of my clients *smiles*. I will try any style, but realism.

What inspires you the most when designing tattoos?

My love for cute things, Japanese culture, tattoo culture and the artists I admire!

You are also known for your very own awesome Jfashion style. If you could collaborate with one Japanese brand, which one would it be?

Probably *6%dokidoki* because I love their originality and craziness.

What has been, up to present, the tattoo you liked doing most?

Oh! I don't think I can choose... I have really done so many I love! Maybe the rainbow cupcake I did on my friend Aly!

If you could be tattooed by no matter which tattoo artist, who would you choose and what would design?

Ohlala, too much choice! It's really impossible for me to choose *smiles*. As far as the project goes, I have so many in my head I would love to have done, and I am also very open, so I would give them a lot of carte blanche in any case *smiles*.

What designs do you hope to tattoo in 2017?

Always girly tattoos, if possible in colour. *Sailor Moon*, *Magical Girl*, *Studio Ghibli*, etc *smiles*.

What do people have to do to get tattooed by you?

Firstly, come by the shop and talk to me about the project so we can set a date for you to get tattooed. In case of people coming in from abroad, send me an email explaining the project and including basic information like what design you want, the size of the tattoo and where on your body you want to get it. I respond very quickly!

Where to find Lunie and Calypso tattoo (online):

Calypso tattoo: www.calypsotattoo.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Calypso-Tattoo

41 rue du pot d'or

4000 Liège

Belgium

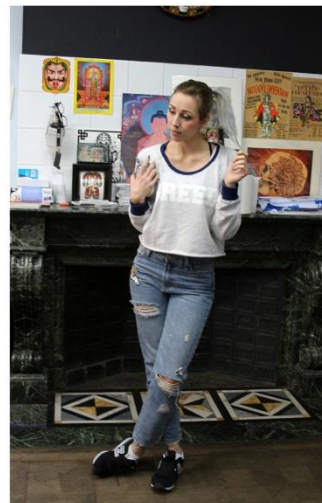
Lunie's email: joanniesimioni@live.be

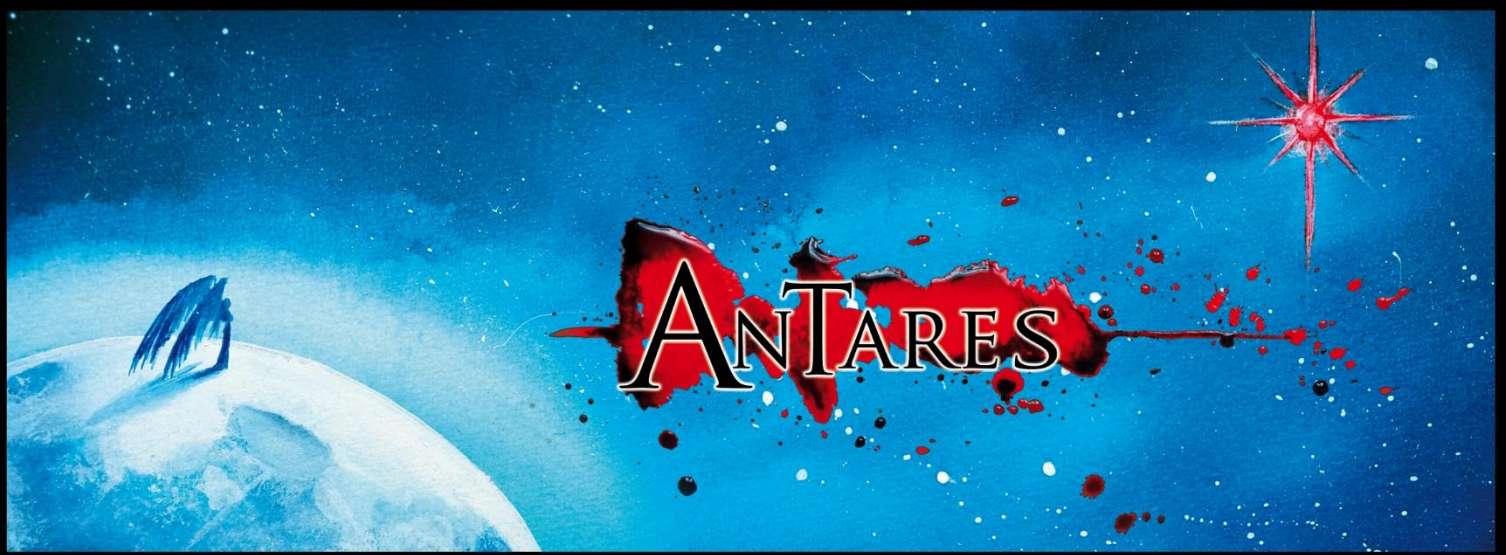
Lunie's Instagram: www.instagram.com/luniechan

Lunie's facebook: www.facebook.com/lunie.chan.1

Lunie's blog: luniechan.blogspot.be

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Tattoo photos by Lunie.







helcanen in japan
okayama special

















MAKOTO

Sincérité - Sincerity

誠



New book of Helcanen to be released in April 2017

A piece of Japan, inspired by the Samurai stories during the Edo era & the Shinsengumi.
Illustrations & kanji created with traditional tools.

2017 © Helcanen.be



Helcanen in Japan
Kurashiki special











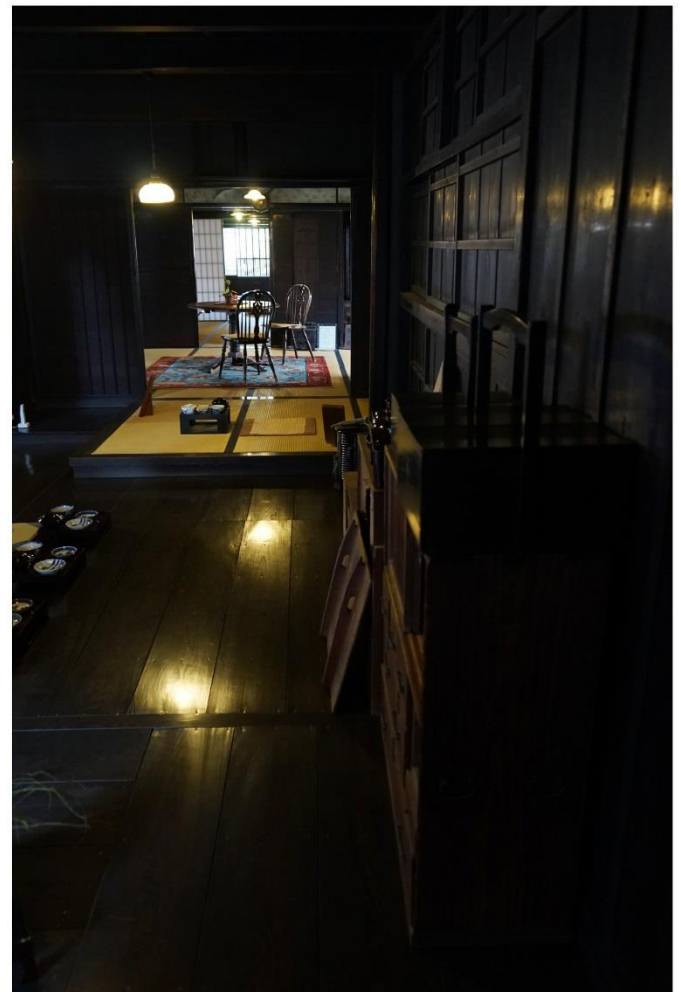
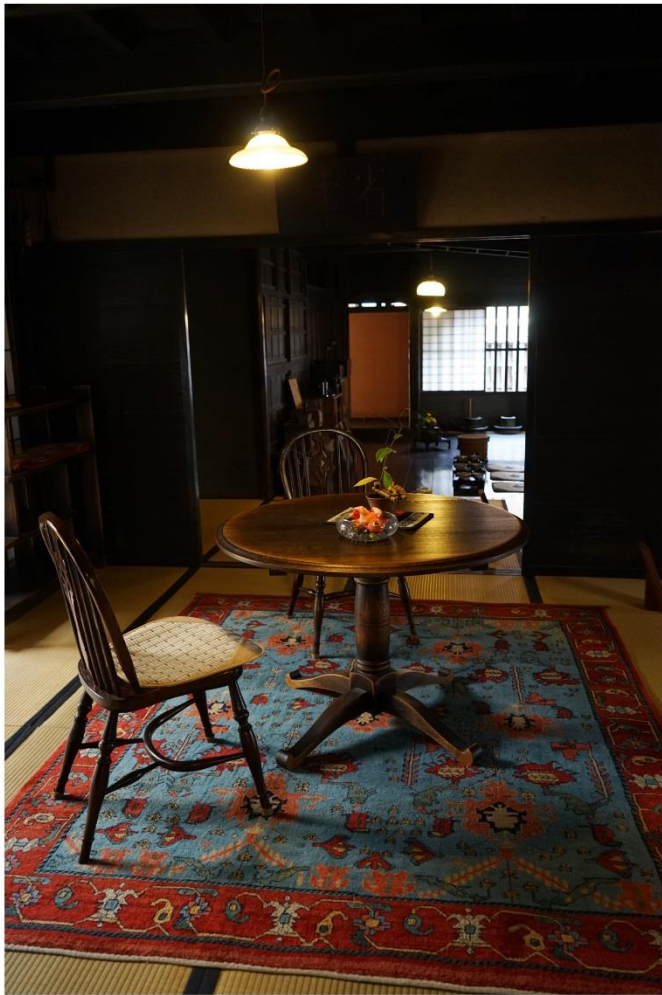














Photographic impressions of **VERSAILLES' RENAISSANCE TOUR**

January 26 - February 5 2017.

Photography by Julien Chantôme for B7KLAN.



BRIDEAR

Made in Asia
Brussels Expo
Laeken, Belgium
Friday, March 3 2017

It has to be said that the BRIDEAR concert attracted quite a bit of a crowd on Friday late afternoon at the main stage, even though Friday was the quietest day of the convention. It also must be said that the girls of BRIDEAR put up a tremendously energetic performance, and they loved being on stage. Something the crowd ate up.

I'm not entirely sure why.

First of all, technically, you can not argue that the instrumentalists of BRIDEAR know what they are doing. Their guitarists especially are mind-blowingly amazing and skilled. These girls are right at the top of metal guitarists. The end, no doubt about it.

My issue with Bridear isn't with their music, my issue is with the vocals. Which are unsteady half the time, and blatantly off-key the other half of the time. I am sure that many will find that charming, and the amount of people rocking out to their concert alone would wholeheartedly disagree with me (heck, even Bert, our photographer does!), and that is totally ok (to each their own!). But I found it very hard to listen to her singing.

It also did NOT help that the crew of Made in Asia, in a fit of total and utter incompetence, thought it would be a great idea to turn up the volume so loud that it was nigh impossible to be in the patio area without ear plugs to protect your ear drums.

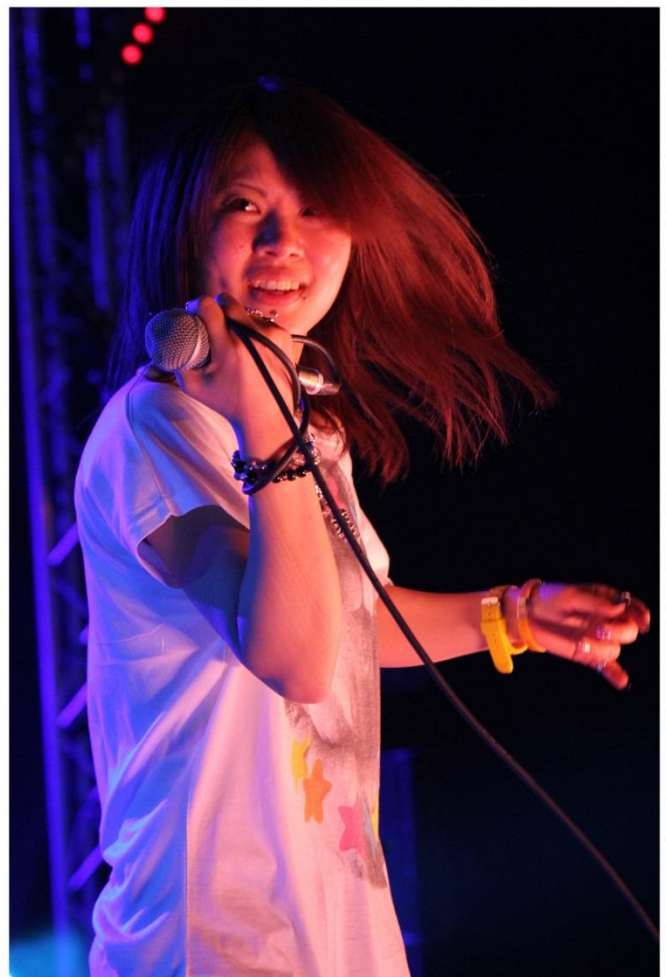
I actually took a walk to see how far the music would reach me, and I could still hear it all the way at the 8tea5 stand, which was a considerable distance away from the Patio. In fact, I would say it was nearer to the main entrance than the Patio, which is just not on. Sure, metal should be loud, but not to the point where your ears are still ringing days after.

What was a nice touch on the Friday, was that they left a side of the stage open completely so people in wheelchairs could arrive and have a good view of the actual stage without having to make use of the left hand side screen (the right hand side simply displayed the band's logo). The screen is, of course, a nice touch in itself, because the MiA stage is quite low, so unless you are in the first few rows, or very tall, you have very bad visibility of what goes on, on stage.

Basically, yes BRIDEAR gave it their all, but unless you are so into metal you are able to forgive the flaws in the vocals and the blatant cranking up the volume to near unbearable levels by the MiA staff, it was a pretty bad gig.

Just as a side note: it's not that I don't enjoy metal. I'm not a metal head, but there are plenty of metal bands I enjoy, both recorded and live. So this is not me hating on metal because I don't like the genre.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



PLASTICZOOMS

Made in Asia
Brussels Expo
Laeken, Belgium
Friday, March 3 2017

PLASTICZOOMS was the Patio's headline act on Friday, but as Made in Asia had programmed their live really quite close towards the end of the event's closing time, a lot of people had left during or right after BRIDEAR (or possibly they just couldn't take another live at that kind of volume...). That said, the people that were left in the Patio, were definitely all there for the band, and were just as enthused as the guys on stage.

This live, much as BRIDEAR before them, was sadly not without it's Made in Asia induced issues. Apparently the band had been given hardly any time to sound check, meaning that there were some clear issues that had nothing to do with the performing skills of the PLASTICZOOMS members. Whilst the volume had been turned down to enjoyable levels, the light on stage was absolute rubbish. I get it, they are essentially a band that plays a form of new wave. That does not mean that the stage light should be something you find in an actual bat cave 90% of the time. Once again, the Made in Asia technicians failed to do as well as they should have, but that aside, it really was a really good live.

The band mainly played numbers from their new, self-titled album, which were very well received by the people watching their live, and you could see several people that were dancing from the first to the last song. Singer Sho did his best to communicate with people during the live, even though he was held back a little by the language barrier, he still did his best, and it was very obviously very appreciated.

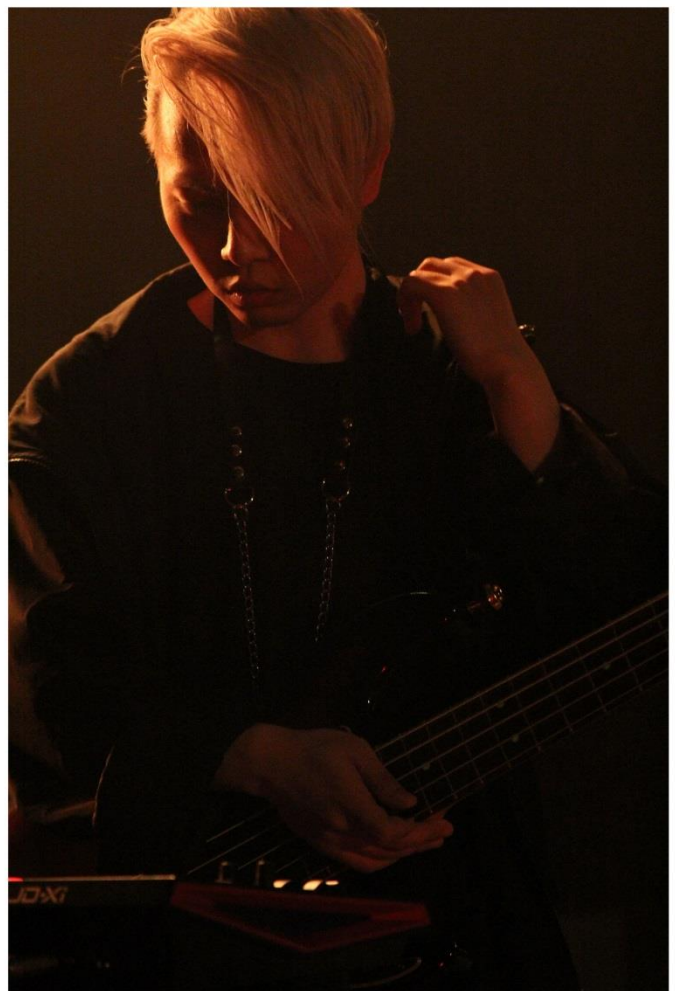
The most memorable moment probably was when the band set in *Breitenbach*, even though it is one of the most introvert songs on the album, and pretty much the entire crowd burst out in cheers.

That righter there, really says everything you need to know about how much people in that little concert area loved the band, really.

For sure, even though the venue staff didn't do as well on this live as they could (and should) have, it was a remarkable, high quality performance that simply affirms what many critics and reviewers have said before about PLASTICZOOMS: this band owns the stage, and really is a live band first and foremost.

Setlist:

1. Frontal Attack
2. The Future
3. Crack
4. Quite Clearly
5. Veiled Eyes
6. Synthesia
7. BUG
8. Smoke Motion
9. Night & Hurt
10. MASKED
11. To Cut A Long Story Short
12. HIGHWAY
13. TIME
14. Minds
15. Breitenbach
16. RAVEN



BRIDEAR

Made in Asia
Brussels Expo
Laeken, Belgium
Saturday, March 4 2017

Most people that were in the Patio at the time of the BRIDEAR performance on the main stage Saturday were undoubtedly waiting for some cosplay event or other to start. Regardless of that, it was quite cool to see that a lot of the crowd that had previously been sitting down, jumped up as soon as the second or third song started, preferring to rock out to the concert rather than simply sitting down. Of course, those that did sit down had a good view still, as the concert was streamed live onto a big screen on the left hand side of the stage.

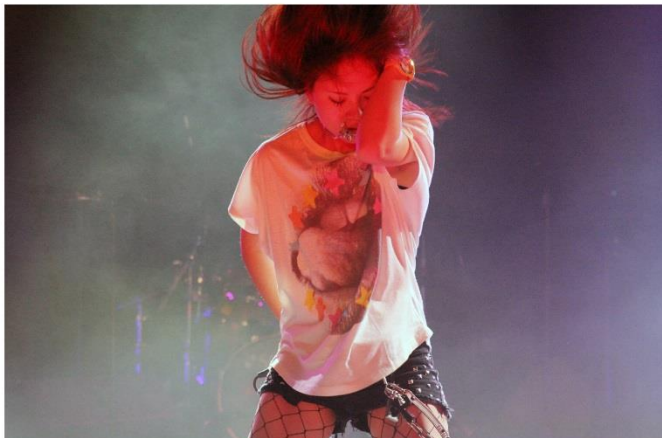
Whilst on Friday, the set-up had been to leave the right hand side of the stage free for wheelchair users to guarantee they had good visibility, they had decided to bin that idea entirely on the Saturday, letting people crowd the entire stage. Which I felt was a bit rubbish, because it had been a really nice gesture to accommodate people with limited mobility. What they did, instead, was set up a table on the left-hand side, really near the stage. Which was all sorts of ridiculous, because people would stand in front of it, so people sitting at the table still had no view of what was going on, on stage. Plus they were sitting with their back to the live feed screen, so I'm going to write that off as another questionable de-cision made by MiA (there's a few, as usual).

Sadly, exactly like Friday, they had cranked up the volume of the BRIDEAR live to unbearable without ear protection. Which meant that only the most die-hard metal fans and members of the press were sticking out the entire live, because others simply couldn't stand the fact that it was so unbearably loud. Even a lot of people sitting down ended up leaving, because it was just too damn loud.

The band themselves once again gave it their all and clearly loved performing. Make no mistake, it is a joy to see the girls doing their thing, simply because they enjoy it so much themselves, and it rubs off. Sadly, much like Friday, the music rocked, but the vocals often left a lot to be desired. That said, I do feel like the singing was better on Saturday than it was on Friday, so there is hope for the vocalist yet!

Bridear continues to be a fun band to see live if you are into metal music. If you can forgive that the singing isn't perfect (understatement) then I would definitely recommend seeing them if you have the chance.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



PLASTICZOOMS

Made in Asia
Brussels Expo
Laeken, Belgium
Saturday, March 4 2017

One the Saturday of Made in Asia, the Patio was crowded for the PLASTICZOOMS live, but this probably had less than half to do with the band performing and the fact that a Cosplay event was planned for after the live. This was both good and bad. It was good because it meant a lot of people that were simply hanging around waiting for the next thing to happen got to discover the music of PLASTICZOOMS and it was bad because a lot of very determined cosplay fans were in taking up space for people that legit wanted to see PLASTICZOOMS perform. So that was very double.

Regardless, the outcome was much larger for the performance than it had been the day before, now that the concert was programmed on a much better time in the convention day.

Sadly, the live still had all the exact same lighting issues they had the day before, and the stage was just not well lit at all. But at least the sound had improved upon. And whilst technical issues have nothing to do with a performance, everyone will agree that the less of those the better. And so Saturday's live was better than Friday's, but it had nothing to do with the band and their performance skills.

They had made small changes to the setlist, playing a few different songs from the day before (sadly we didn't manage to get our hands on the setlist for Saturday), which people that attended both concerts could really appreciate. And if you looked around the area surrounding the stage, you really did see quite a few people that were also there the day before.

Of course, PLASTICZOOMS, like any band, has their own set ways of performing, and it really works for them and their music. But at the same time, they really do their best to engage the audience, even though singer *Sho's* French is very basic, he tries his best and it's always appreciated. As was their mix of new songs from the most recent, self-titled, album and quite a few older tracks.

Once again, PLASTICZOOMS owned the Patio stage, much to the pleasure and enthusiasm of both established and new fans.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Triumphant X JAPAN at Wembley Arena

We got the opportunity to attend the memorable performance of X JAPAN in London on March 4th at the *Wembley Arena*. It was a triumphant show, perfectly staged and definitely an international achievement for this legendary band.

X JAPAN and it's leader *Yoshiki* can't leave anyone unimpressed. Legendary in Japan, origin of the visual kei movement, inspiration to generations of successful musicians that came after them.

X JAPAN has done much to rise above their dark history marked by tragedies, death and a long series of sad occurrences.

X JAPAN is a bunch of survivors, for real. Let's face it: to the outside and uninformed eye, the constant reminders of these events appear uncomfortable, but X JAPAN doesn't seem interested in killing its demons yet, and probably never will be.

Their melancholy is a part of their identity, like a business card. The tragic loss of the young musician "*hide*" in 1998, widely commented on and expressed in all the further works of "X" is the main example. The "death instincts" and health issues of the leader *Yoshiki*, also a key point of the band's ups and downs, is another. Yet, X JAPAN is much more than their long-running tragedy. The incredible show they gave in London proved their greatness once again.

European fans came from all over the continent, and the Japanese fan base was also highly represented to honour this kind of national symbol. In the queue, amazing cosplays, coloured hair, national flags,... showed that "X" is everywhere.

Above all, we see passion here.

Before the show, the – very beautiful – movie "We are X" was presented in a short version. You can read our review of this documentary in the previous edition of BCM (#30).

The show itself was remarkable on any scale. Performance, emotion, lights, small talks with the audience, explosive cheers of love at the start of songs like *KURENAI* or *ENDLESS RAIN*, with a smiling "*hide*" appearing on the wide screens.

The whole show was perfectly prepared.

There was an especially intimate moment when guitarist *SUGIZO*, alone on stage with only his violin, wearing a "Union Jack" style jacket, performed *Bowie's "Life on Mars?"*.

Smiles, also, when *Toshi* and *Yoshiki* casually discussed the possible "99% ready new album", anticipated for years by the fans.

Yoshiki suddenly performed *Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody"* at the piano as an homage to the fantastic English music scene.

Between very emotional songs and strong energetic times, X Japan showed London just how big they still are. X JAPAN, legend in Japan, barely known internationally on the mainstream scene, is dreaming of international recognition--and there is no doubt they can achieve it.

Setlist

1. RUSTY NAIL
2. HERO
3. JADE
4. KISS THE SKY
5. Beneath The Skin
6. PATA solo
7. HEATH solo
8. DRAIN
9. SUGIZO violin solo
10. La Venus
11. Say Anything
12. Born To Be Free
13. Kurenai
- Encore1
14. YOSHIKI Piano solo
15. YOSHIKI Drum solo
16. Without You
17. I.V.
18. X
- Encore2
19. Bohemian Rhapsody
20. Space Oddity
21. ENDLESS RAIN
22. Violin~Piano
23. ART OF LIFE



Photographic impressions of
PLASTICZOOMS LIVE AT P60

March 9 2017, P60, Amstelveen, The Netherlands.

Photography by Francisca Hagen.



my way my love is returning with a new album on April 1st, simply titled **Blue**.

Time to catch up with singer and guitarist Yukio Murata to find out a little more about this new work.

You have been a talented musician and producer for years, but what first made you decide to work in the music industry?

Actually, it's something I wanted to do since I was 15 years old. I have always loved music, so getting a job in the music industry seemed like a natural choice to me.

If you were not musician, what would you be?

The other thing I wanted to be when I was little, was a comic book artist. So, if I hadn't started working in the music industry, I like to think I would be drawing comics right now *smiles*.

You work a lot as producer. Who was favourite artist to work with so far?

I honestly can't choose, each collaboration has been splendid in it's own right. Every time I have worked with someone else it's been good, and a positive creative influence, inspirational even, for me personally *smiles*.

If you could produce a song for any artist, who would you like to work with?

Michael Radford.

How old were you when you first started playing the guitar?

I was 15 years old when I bought my first acoustic guitar and started to learn how to play it.

Can you tell us about why you choose it and how you first got started?

Bob Dylan, his music pushed me over the edge to start playing guitar myself and write my own songs.

You are working on a new CD, tell us more about it?

It's called *Blue* and it will be released on April 1st. We are again releasing it under the American label *File 13 Records*. The style will be a lot like old audio cassettes filled with acoustic guitar music. I don't know, I feel like saying more will be giving the listener spoilers *laughs*.

How do you feel *my way my love's* music has changed and evolved on the new CD?

The spirituality making music newly turns into nothing...

You have wanting to come back to EU for long time, will it finally happen in 2017?

Well, that would be awesome, we'd love to come over and play European venues again.

You often post photos of your gear on *instagram*. Which is your favourite pedal?

My favorite is my "FUZZ" pedal.



What are your plans with *U-re:x* this year?

I actually just wrote an U-re:x song for a Japanese idol recently, but it's still a work in progress and sadly I can't say more about it at this point. Stay tuned *smiles*.

You are also part of *THE MORTAL*, will there be new release from them too?

I don't know, but I sure hope so.

Name 5 beers you want to drink if you visit Belgium.

Belgian beer, yes please! I love Belgian beer! I can't name 5, I'd just try them all *laughs*. But my favourite is *Orval*.

Find my way my love online:

Official website: www.mywaymylove.com

Official twitter: twitter.com/mywaymylove

Yukio's instagram: www.instagram.com/yukio_murata

Yukio's twitter: twitter.com/mywaymymurata

Ena Fujita is not your average J-pop idol, far from. She may look super cute, regardless of what she's wearing (or in her case: not wearing), but she's proven with her EP and starring role in the horror movie *Evil Idol Song*, that she is far more than her looks, bringing an original sound to the world of Japanese pop music.

Your single *Evil Idol Song* has sort of become your theme here in Europe. Can you tell us 5 things that you think are evil?

Business partners who have secret intentions, a hidden agenda if you will. To envy the success of others. To imitate somebody without feeling ashamed. To go on diet but then there's no result. To grow old.

You also starred in the movie *Evil Idol Song*. What would you say is the greatest likeness and the greatest difference between you and the character you play?

The likeness is to be motivated by negative feelings, and the difference is that I don't sleep around to receive business opportunities.

Evil Idol Song is about demons, which are your favourite horror movie creatures?

Actually, I basically don't like horror movies because they're so scary. My favorite movie ever is *Legally Blonde*!

Did you watch any movies with similar leads or stories to prepare for your role though?

I don't watch horror movies at all if I can't help it, because I just dislike them that much. But I watched *Black Swan*, *The Exorcist*, and *Possession* as part of preparing myself for the shooting of *Evil Idol Song*. They were all horrible.

Considering they're not all scary: which is your favourite yokai?

I like *Neko Musume* from *GeGeGe no Kitaro*. When I was a child, I wanted a ribbon like the one *Neko Musume* wears in hair and I threw a tantrum because it wasn't possible *chuckles*.

If you could get any equipment to match your famous pink microphone, what would it be?

I definitely want a matching microphone stand and cute amplifier.

You are also known as *MC Bikini*, how does your MC project differ from your idol project?

The *MC Bikini* project is still being developed, but I hope I can release it in the future. I'm practicing hard to be good at freestyle rap!

You said before that your motto would be "always do your best to be as cute as possible". What is cute to you personally?

I always keep in mind to be as cute as possible, because I can't be at all. To me, a cute girl is always cute no matter which angle I see her from. Also, I think girls that are always smiling are cute. So I guess: smiling as much as you can *smiles*.

Many Japanese artists have a special name for their fans, what do you call your fans?

I call them my *Enamel Crew* as they call me *Enamel*!



Aside from being a singer, you are also a guitarist. Do you play any other instruments? And are there instruments you would still like to master?

I play the guitar whilst singing, as a tool to make my music more convincing, so actually, I'm not a guitarist. Well, I feel like I'm not. It's embarrassing, but I don't know a lot about guitarists and am not familiar with guitar manufacturers at all. But I'm always hoping to play the guitar well, so I keep working hard at getting better at it!

You have said in previous interviews that you are a huge fan of *Katy Perry* and *Lady Gaga*. If you could collaborate with them, what would you do together?

I would be really happy with any collaboration if I could make it happen! But hypothetically speaking, I'd love to sing *We are the World* with them if it did happen!

Your music is released in Europe via JPU Records. Do you have any plans for a EU tour?

I've never been Europe so I hope to be able to visit before I die! There's no plan for a EU tour yet, but of course I'd love to go if I am invited! Please tell me how I can make it happen.

When the next edition come out, it will be hanami season, do you have any special plans for sakura viewing?

The *Miss iD* audition staff invited me to a sakura viewing, so I'm sure I'll be enjoying *hanami* when you're reading this interview! Spring is my favorite season, so I can't wait! *smiles*.

Find Ena Fujita online:

Official website: www.fujitaena.com

Official twitter: twitter.com/fujitaenamel



PLASTICZOOMS

PLASTICZOOMS is back on a European tour, and it's always a party to see them live.

With their own special blend of new wave and electronic music, as well as the sparkling personality of front man Sho Asakawa, the band is sure to liven up any club or event they appear at. It was no different at Made in Asia, where the band performed two out of three days and held a fan meeting on the third. We caught up with them on the Friday for an interview and photo shoot at the Atomium.



How has living in Europe influenced your new album?

Sho (vocals): We went clubbing a lot in Berlin, especially to places that played European techno music. It may sound a little silly but we got tons of inspiration from being there and partying with the locals.

Your sound has definitely evolved since your previous releases, how do you think it will continue to change in the future?

Sho: Yes of course! We constantly evolve, I think that's very important for a band anyway. I think our next album will be catchier, more dance oriented. I want to create less emotional distance with the audience, I want to share our energy and make it so that we can all dance to the music.

How do you think this tour will influence PLASTICZOOMS as a band?

Tom (guitar): This is our biggest tour yet, there are so many gigs, and it's pretty fast paced. It's all very precious to us.

Sho: I feel that touring helps us improve the band's sound and the quality of our lives. So I expect that at the end of this, we have come out of it better performers *smiles*.

Which is your favourite song of the new album to play live?

Sho: *Minds*.

Tom: *Smoke Motion*.

Jun (bass): *Highway*.

Kanba (drums): *Breitenbach*.

What do you miss the most about Japan when you are on tour?

Sho: Right now nothing. But the tour hasn't been going on for long at this point. Ask me again later and I might miss sushi and a whole lot of other things *smiles*!

What's the best touring habit of your fellow members?

Jun: *Sho* always takes the initiative, he's a good leader in that regard. *Tom* can cook, which is great. And *Kanba* always does the washing up after dinner, so we're never stuck doing the dishes *smiles*.

Sho: *Jun* is really clever and considerate! When I panic, he always knows how to put me back at ease. *Tom* always knows how to motivate me because we're on the same wavelength when it comes to our music. Plus we share the same fashion style and sense of humor. And *Kanba* just makes me smile every night *laughs*.

Tom: *Sho* is a fighter on stage. Every live. It's a great thing, because his energy is contagious, I can feel it too. *Jun*, even though he isn't our official manager, is a really good manager. And *Kanba* is just such a great mood maker.

Kanba: *Sho's* a very tough guy, in the sense that he elevates everyone he meets in a positive way. And on stage he's very cool. *Tom* is a great cook. And *Jun* is such a hard worker, he really goes above in beyond, regardless whether or not there is a reward in it for him.

And what is the worst about touring with the others?

Jun: *Sho* is an annoying drunk *laughs*. Sometimes *Tom* blends in so well he's just invisible. I don't actually know *Kanba* well enough yet as he's new, so ask me again next tour *smiles*.

Sho: *Jun* is slow like a snail. *Tom* always sticks to his own pace, even when that pace is way too slow. And *Kanba* is too quiet *smiles*.

Tom: I'm too zen to answer this questions *laughs*.

Sho nearly falls out of the sofa laughing.

Kanba: All the others keep stealing my lighters!

Aur lie (manager): It's true! Don't lend them a lighter, especially not *Sho*, he steals them and then loses them!

Who is your most iconic influence that is no longer alive?

Sho: Kurt Cobain and Malcolm McLaren.

Tom: Jimi Hendrix.

Jun: Brad, from *SUBLIME*.

Kanba: James Polka and John Paul.

Europe is known for fashion, and you guys do love fashion. Are there any shops you love going to whilst on tour?

Sho: I love visiting vintage shops, especially those that sell 80ties and early 90ties stuff!

Tom: Me too.

If you weren't musicians, what kind of job would you be doing?

Sho: I'd be a fashion designer for sure *smiles*.

Tom: I'd be on the creative staff for *Kamen Rider* *grins*.

Jun: I would like to be a teacher *smiles*.

Kanba: I'd be an illustrator.

Favourite Belgian beer and food?

Sho: I love *Aur lie's* cooking! Especially meat loaf, that's my favourite! I actually don't like beer, it's too strong and it tastes bad. I much prefer vodka and whiskey.

Tom: I know this isn't really an answer to the question as it's neither food nor drink, but I just really love *Manneken Pis*! It's just so cute and I really like the aesthetic of the statue. Look, I even got a *Manneken Pis* keychain *shows it hanging off his backpack*.

Jun: My favourite beer is *Bon Voeux*. Aside from that, I'm almost a Belgian clich  because I love chocolate, waffles and French fries *laughs*.

Kanba: I pretty much like all the beer I've tried so far. I like trying a new beer every night, but I've not found the one yet that I can pinpoint as a real favourite. As for my favourite food, I love those little waffles with caramel filling, the syrup waffles.

And this is the point where the band learned how to say stroopwafel.

Find PLASTICZOOMS online:

Official site: plasticzooms.net

Official twitter: twitter.com/PLASTICZOOMS

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/Plasticzooms

Official soundcloud: soundcloud.com/plasticzooms

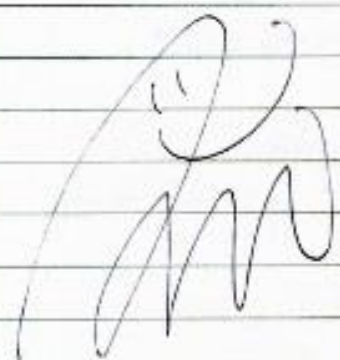
European site: highfeel.jp





WE  BRUSSEL!

Tom takanashi



love



Thankli

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Drs

PLASTICZOOMS

Win a cheki signed by PLASTICZOOMS!

When we interviewed and photographed PLASTICZOOMS on the first day of Made in Asia, the guys were kind enough to sign not one but two cheki to give away to two lucky fans (so one each, obviously).

So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: a cheki signed by all 4 members of PLASTICZOOMS.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) cheki. You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work! So no porn, no smutty fanfic, keep it decent and it's a valid entry ;).

The photos aren't quite as blurry, but as everyone by now knows: my scanner isn't always the most co-operative.

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

The last date for submissions is June 21st, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!

The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address stays on file with BCM, but will NOT be given to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured!

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, especially during final editing period of the next edition, so please be patient for the results as it can take a few days for them to be released. We will email everyone that submitted to let them know whether or not they won.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-Post and we are no means responsible should the post screw up. They haven't so far and we've sent cheki all over the globe, but you never know so we like to mention this in advance. They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient. Especially if you live outside of Belgium. Shipping to locations outside of Europe may take anything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.



8 April 2017, Etterbeek Brussels

COALESCAREMONIUM.INFO

PAGAN ELECTRICS



A Grandioso Gothic Happening in a Revamped Monastery

Join the fifth anniversary of Coalescaremonium [Brussels Gothic Happening] and experience a grand day in a magical setting with bands, DJs, fashion, art and dance spectacles starring:



EMPUSAE

Inkubus
Sukubus



AGEIS+

ana
mikelson
//costume art



HYBRYDS

MIREXXX

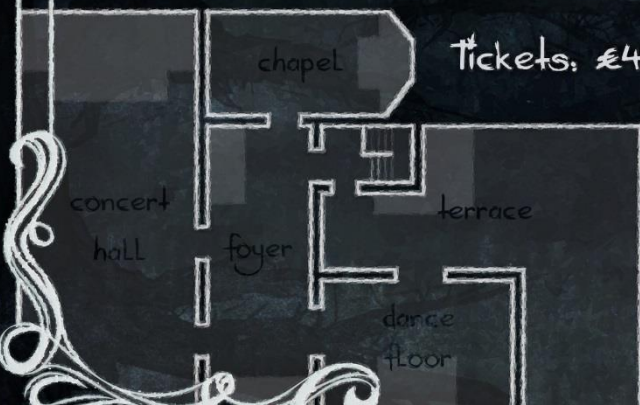
FELINE
@strange

Tickets: €45 | Doorsale: €50 | Start: 15h | End: 03h

Location: Bouche à Oreille

Place Van Meel 16, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium

Train/Bus/Metro: Schuman | Parking: Jubelpark



EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

April

PLASTICZOOMS on tour

1: Voodoo Club, Warsaw, Poland
8: Rock Classic, Brussels, Belgium
14: La Salle Gueule, Marseille, France
15: Mang'Azur, Toulon, France
17: Polymanga, Montreux, Switzerland
21: J-Pop Con, Copenhagen, Denmark
22: MODOCON, Budapest, Hungary
#plasticzooms2017
www.highfeel.jp



Esprit D'Air live

In support of Courtesans

Date: 1
Venue: Ruby Lounge
City: Manchester
Country: UK
www.espritedair.com/tour-dates

Hanami – cherry blossom feast

Date: 2
Venue: Japanese garden
City: Hasselt
Country: Belgium
visithasselt.be/en/japanese-garden

Coalescaremonium

Pagan Electrics
Date: 8
Venue: Bouche à Oreille
City: Etterbeek (Brussels)
Country: Brussels
www.coalescaremonium.info

Trolls et Légendes

Date: 14 – 16
Venue: Micx + Lotto Mons Expo
City: Mons
Country: Belgium
www.trolls-et-legendes.be

Japan Life Style

Date: 26 – 30
Venue: Galerie Ravenstein
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium

May

La Danza Della Luna

Date: 20
Venue: Zwijnaarde Castle
City: Zwijnaarde
Country: Belgium
www.danzadellaluna.com

Dino World

Date: 20 (starting)
Venue: Brussels Expo
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.expodinoworld.be

Belgian Pride

Date: 20 & 21
Venue: Mont des Arts
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium

MCM Hannover Comic Con

Date: 20 & 21
Venue: Deutsche Messe
City: Hannover
Country: Germany
www.mcmcomiccon.com/hannover

G.L.A.M.S

A Queen of the Night EU tour
24: DIY Café, Lille, France
27: Magnificon, Krakow, Poland
28: Marie-Antoinette, Berlin, Germany



June

G.L.A.M.S

A Queen of the Night EU tour
1: Chapeau Rouge, Prague, Czech Republic
2: Garage DeLuxe, Munich, Germany
3: La Marquise, Lyon, France
4: LE KLUB, Paris, France
9: MTC, Cologne, Germany
10: Animecon, Den Hague, The Netherlands
11: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium

June

MCM Northern Ireland Comic Con

Date: 24 & 25
Venue: Eikon Exhibition Centre
City: Belfast
Country: Northern Ireland
www.mcmcomiccon.com/belfast

Matenrou Opera – European Tour

Date: 30
Venue: Gloria
City: Helsinki
Country: Finland
www.b7klan.com

July

Matenrou Opera – European Tour

1: The Underworld, London, UK
3: MTC, Cologne, Germany
4: Firlej, Wrocław, Poland
6: Feierwerk, Munich, Germany
8: La Boule Noire, Paris, France
9: Melkweg, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
11: Club Moskva, Moscow, Russia
www.b7klan.com



MCM Ireland Comic Con

Date: 1 & 2
Venue: RDS (Royal Dublin Society)
City: Dublin
Country: Ireland
www.mcmcomiccon.com/ireland

Japan Expo

Date: 6 – 9
Venue: Parc d'expositions Paris-Nord Villepinte
City: Villepinte
Country: France
www.japan-expo-paris.com

CHECK THAT CHEKI

want to be on the next edition's check that cheki page? Just submit one!



MADE IN ASIA

FASHION AND COSPLAY SNAP

March 3 & 4, Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





X JAPAN, live at Wembley Arena.

Saturday, March 4 2017, London, UK.
Photo © X JAPAN